

Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands

Source: <http://www.epa.gov/ost/standards/wqslibrary/> and <http://www.deq.gov.mp/>

PART 5 CLASSIFICATION OF WATER USES

5.1 Marine Waters

(a) CLASS AA - It is the objective of this class that these waters remain in their natural pristine state as

nearly as possible with an absolute minimum of pollution or alteration of water quality from any human-related source or actions. To the extent practicable, the wilderness character of such areas shall be protected. No zones of mixing shall be permitted. The uses to be protected in this class of waters are the support and propagation of shellfish and other marine life, conservation of coral reefs and wilderness areas, oceanographic research, and aesthetic enjoyment and compatible recreation inclusive of whole body contact and related activities. / The classification of any water area as Class AA shall not preclude other uses of such waters compatible with these objectives and in conformance with the criteria applicable to them.

- (b) CLASS A - It is the objective of this class of waters that their use for recreational purposes and aesthetic enjoyment be protected. Any other use shall be allowed as long as it is compatible with the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife, and with recreation in and on these waters of a limited body contact nature. Such waters shall be kept clean of solid waste, oil and grease, and shall not act as receiving waters for any effluent which has not received the best degree of treatment or control practicable under existing technology and economic conditions and compatible with standards established for this class. A zone of mixing is [approvable] in such waters.

5.2 Fresh Surface Waters

- (a) Class 1 - It is the objective of this class that these waters remain in their natural state as nearly as possible with an absolute minimum Of pollution from any human-caused source. To the extent possible, the wilderness character of such areas shall be protected. Wastewater discharges and zone of mixing into these waters are prohibited. The uses to be protected in this class of water are for domestic water supplies, food processing, the support and propagation of aquatic life, compatible recreation and aesthetic enjoyment including water contact recreation.
- (b) Class 2 - It is the objective of this class of waters that their use for recreational purposes, propagation of fish and other aquatic life, and agricultural and industrial water supply not be limited in any way. The uses to be protected in this class of waters are all uses compatible with the protection and propagation of fish and other aquatic life, and with recreation in and on these waters. Compatible recreation may include limited body contact activities. Such waters shall not act as receiving waters for any discharge which has not received the best degree of treatment or control practical under technological and economic conditions and compatible with the standards established for this class. A zone of mixing is permissible in these waters.

5.3 Protection of wetlands

Wetlands are waters of the State and are subject to the provisions of this rule. Point or nonpoint sources of pollution shall not cause destruction or impairment of wetlands. The general application of the Water Quality Standards shall apply to all wetlands unless replaced by site specific standards for wetlands based on their function are adopted by the Commonwealth and approved by EPA.

7.6 Salinity

Marine Waters (applicable to Class A, Class AA): No alterations of the marine environment shall occur that would: (1) alter the salinity of marine or estuarine waters more than 10% of the ambient conditions, or (2) which would otherwise adversely affect the sedimentary patterns and indigenous biota, except when due to natural causes.

7.10 Oil and Petroleum Products

The concentration of oil or petroleum products shall not:

- (b) Cause tainting of fish or other aquatic life, be injurious to the indigenous biota or cause objectionable taste in drinking water.

7.12 General Considerations

- (d) The health and life history characteristics of aquatic organisms in waters affected by controllable water quality factors shall not differ substantially from those for the same waters in areas unaffected by controllable water quality factors. Also, controllable water quality factors shall not cause a detrimental increase in concentrations of toxic substances found in bottom sediments or aquatic life.